

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RAMOSHER:FEW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203531

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV  
AT HELSINKI

REF.: SOFIA 1805

1. THE SECRETARY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER MET FOR 25 MINUTES ON JULY 31 AT FINLANDIA HALL IN HELSINKI. THE COUNSELOR, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN AND A NOTETAKER WERE PRESENT ON THE US SIDE WHILE AMBASSADOR (TO GENEVA) NIKOLOV, MLADENOV'S CHIEF OF CABINET AND AN INTERPRETER WERE ON BULGARIAN SIDE. BOTH THE SECRETARY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WERE HOPEFUL ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. THE SECRETARY BEGAN BY STATING THAT WE HAD NO CONFLICT OF NATIONAL INTERESTS WITH BULGARIA. HE SAID WE RECOGNIZED BULGARIA'S GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND THE PARTICULAR INTERESTS UPON WHICH ITS FOREIGN POLICY IS BASED. HE FURTHER STATED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THERE WAS NO REASON NOT TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS AS LONG AS BULGARIA DID NOT HARASS THE US IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OR ACT AGGRESSIVELY AGAINST ITS NEIGHBORS.

3. MLADENOV POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD ORALLY PRESENTED

SECRETARY ROGERS WITH PROPOSALS FOR MEASURES TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS DURING A MEETING AT THE UN THREE YEARS AGO. SINCE THEN A CONSULAR AGREEMENT HAD BEEN CONCLUDED AND HAD GONE INTO EFFECT, BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE TO SIX DRAFT AGREEMENTS INCLUDING ONE ON MARITIME TRADE AND ONE ON CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES WHICH THE GOB HAD PRESENTED DURING 1973-74.

4. THE SECRETARY SUGGESTED THAT THE NEGOTIATION OF A SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT BE DISCUSSED AND PROMISED THAT WE WOULD RESPOND TO THEIR PROPOSAL FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT BY EARLY SEPTEMBER. HE ALSO INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ANY IDEAS THE GOB HAD IN THE AREA OF TRADE.

5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT THE SECRETARY HAD NEVER VISITED BULGARIA, ALTHOUGH HE HAD VISITED ALL OF BULGARIA'S NEIGHBORS (EXCEPT GREECE) AND RENEWED HIS INVITATION TO THE SECRETARY TO VISIT BULGARIA.

6. THE SECRETARY ACCEPTED THE INVITATION IN PRINCIPLE AND INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT SUGGEST A DATE WHEN HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP DURING A FUTURE TRIP TO SOUTHERN EUROPE OR THE MIDDLE EAST.

INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

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